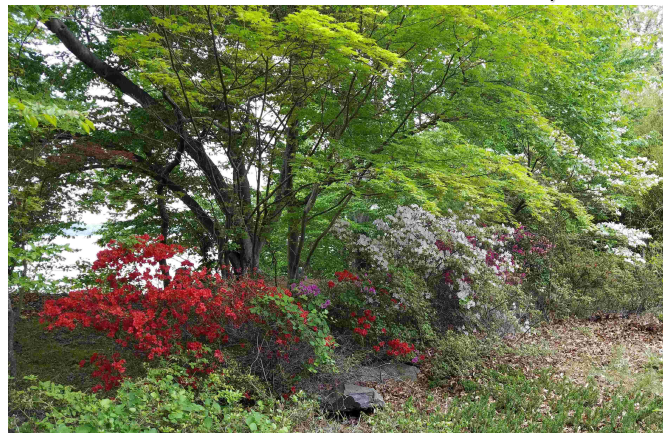
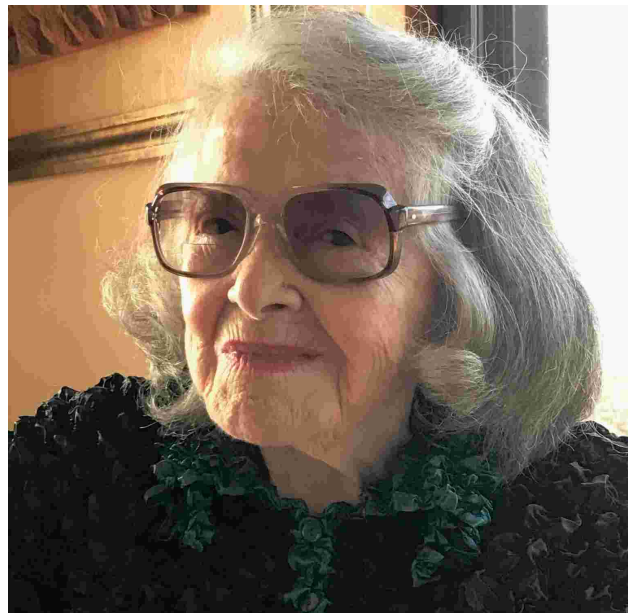
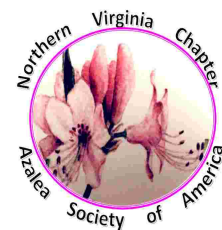


The Azalea Clipper

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Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



Norma's backyard azaleas bordered the Potomac River

Norma Merritt

July 4, 1926 – July 27, 2018

Norma joined our club in 2004 and has been a regular at our meetings, including hosting a Holiday Party at her beautiful house on the Potomac in Fort Washington in 2006. While your editor drove her to some meetings in her later years, she kept driving around the Washington area on her own well into her 90's as an active member of the League of Women Voters and a volunteer poll watcher. She was once invited to Japan to speak about her LWV work. An enthusiastic reader, she recommended and bestowed a number of books on my wife and me: gardening, thrillers and history. Even at the age of 90 she would help me dig up some of my plants and would add them to her garden (my back appreciated her assistance!).

(Continued on p. 3)

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1:00 – 4:30

Annual Plant Auction and Sale

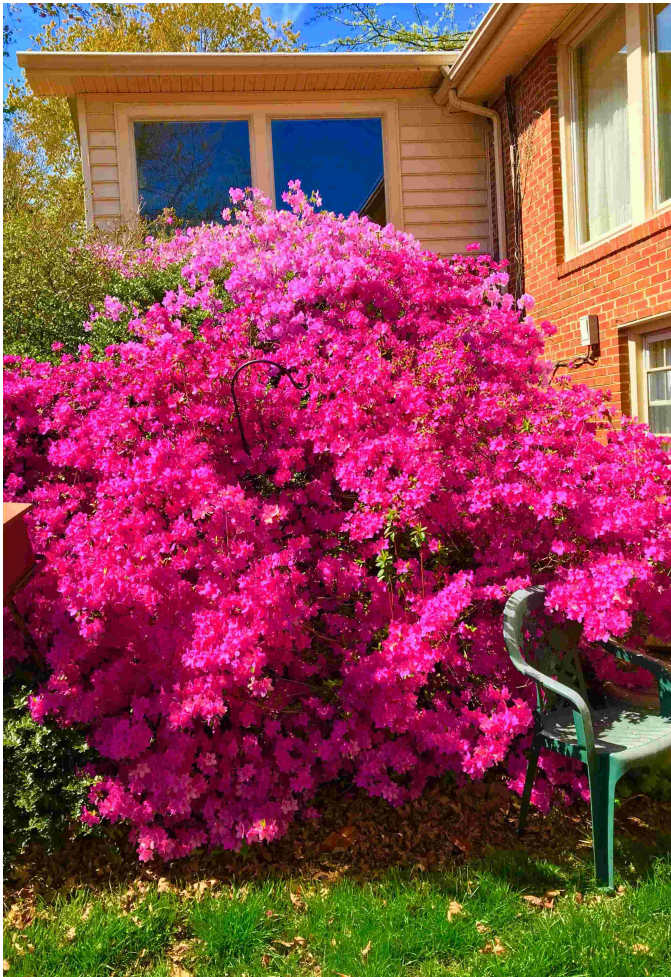
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church (directions on the back)

Over 500 Azaleas!

Please invite friends and family to enjoy the opportunity to obtain rare plants and save over the nursery prices. Posting on Nextdoor.com is a good idea!

(continued on p. 3)

Time Sensitive Information on p. 4!



Norma and Bill



Eve and Bob Harrison's in NC, by Larry Martin



President's Message

With all the recent rain, getting into the garden has been a bit of a challenge. Now with the potential of Hurricane Florence to bring even more rain to the mid-Atlantic, one wonders if we will ever get a break in the weather!

The chapter has a number of upcoming events that should be "after the rain". We are proud of the variety of events that are offered. You might want to find time to participate in one or more of these activities.

Our upcoming September azalea sale and auction is a wonderful opportunity to add to your collection at reasonable prices. There

are a wide variety of specimens from which to choose.

As always, assisting in some way at the preparation prior to or on sale day is welcome and an easy way to support one of the chapter activities...and no special skills are needed!

Please look over the calendar of events and plan to participate in the chapter activities. I think you will find them informative, enjoyable and worth your time. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Lars

More on the Auction and Sale:

***Help the club by volunteering for the setup and tear down! Contact:
Volunteer Coordinator Joanne Neckel 703-690-6013***

***Detailed Plant info: <https://www.nv-asa.org/sale>
Refreshments provided by the club***

(Norma Merritt, continued from p. 1)

Born in Boston, she accompanied Admiral Byrd walking his dog, learned to skate, sail and sing in choirs. After moving to Seattle for high school she learned to ski and baby sat for the Nordstrom family. She married Bill in San Francisco in 1946, modeled for I. Magnin and later had five children. The family enjoyed playing music together on their many trips.

Her obituary in the Washington Post (8/12/18) lists much more. From flower arranging, boat building and environmentalism, Norma's life was as full as anyone could hope for!

I appreciate the assistance of two of her children, Whelden and Catherin M. Merritt-Hauer for providing much more information than I could include in the above.

Captions: p. 1 and p. 2 upper right courtesy Catherine M. Merritt-Hauer, p. 2 Upper left Larry Martin; others by Sperling: meeting, Leslie Nanney, Ralph Habegger, Dan Krabill; bottom: Lars Larson, Mason and Stella McDaniel, Paul Beck; p. 4, 5, and 6 by Sperling

Two Notes From Carolyn

How to Build a Cold Frame

On **Wednesday, September 19th** (Rain Date is the 20th), at 10:30 **Mike White** is giving a demonstration on how to build a simple above ground cold frame of concrete blocks. He has found this to be equally as effective, and a lot less work, than a similar type submerged part way into the ground.

Anyone is welcome to join us at **White's Nursery**. The cold frame that we build that day will be used by our chapter to overwinter our young azaleas. Photos and instructions will be provided on our website sometime after the event.

Please communicate with Carolyn Beck: carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com or 703.860-5676 if you are interested in attending so you can be notified if there are any changes due to the weather.

White's Nursery: 22531 Wildcat Road, Germantown, MD 20876 301.788-3293 or 301.471-5958

Directions:

(We recommend that you avoid the hazardous Brink Road approach.)

- * Take I-270 North from the beltway to Rte 27, Father Hurley Blvd, exit 16. Stay to the right on the exit. * Stay on 27, past Brink Rd, for approx. 3.7 miles from I-270.
- * Turn right on Davis Mill Rd. This turn is just past a large church on the right, and there are two churches on the left on Davis Mill just after you turn.
- * Travel 0.4 miles on Davis Mill to a sharp left onto Watkins Rd.
- * Travel 1.8 miles on Watkins to the stop sign at Wildcat. Turn right onto Wildcat.
- * White's Nursery is 0.5 miles on your left, just before a sharp right turn on Wildcat.

Klimavicz Legacy Garden Planting

In the second week of October we will be installing the **Klimavicz Legacy Garden at Meadowlark Botanical Garden in Vienna**. We are looking forward to this cooperative association with such a wonderful public garden. Please look for a message later this month as to the exact date and time. We will try to pick a day that is comfortable so we can all enjoy the experience.



Posterity

Barry Sperling

Sometime after I moved into my current home, a neighbor told me about the people who used to live across the street. They took pride in their home and grounds, both of which were in *Better Homes and Gardens Magazine*. Time passed, eventually the house became too much for them and they moved away. Were they thinking of what their place would look like in a hundred years? Should I think about that?

Consider:

The view of that house across the street, when I moved in, was of trees and bushes decorated with a variety of cars and trucks, many of them rusted and no longer in working order. The new family had driven over the plantings for the more or less permanent parking of their vehicles. A rusted truck in the front yard is a traditional decoration in some parts of the country! I could make out the bones of the original garden, which I had never seen, and notice some odd, large shrubbery that must have been a centerpiece when the photographers showed up.

Some later occurrences meshed with the above:

A) When a next door neighbor died his home was purchased by a family that grew up in a land with few trees. The centuries-old oaks came down despite my protestations about how it would look in our heavily wooded neighborhood, and the denuded lot made the street look like it was missing a tooth.

B) The house on the other side of me is

owned by a man who is renting it out but promises he will take down all the trees and build a Mc-mansion. After all, the trees make it harder for the construction workers to build and they might fall on the house! (the trees, I think, not the construction workers)

C) Attending some planning meetings for the Rt. 1 corridor where I live, a plan was revealed to have the DC Metro line extend into our neighborhood in twenty or thirty years. However, the subway people won't consider it until the population supports such an extension. That meant that the area must be leveled and high-rises constructed to draw in the people.

How does all of the above fit together? I'm landscaping a garden for myself, my wife and the people I know. The county will not take my half acre for a park the way the Margaret White Estate in Annandale will be preserved. When they pull me out of the house feet-first, those who move in next will bulldoze the property for soccer fields (remember – the trees might fall on the house!). Those buyers, in turn, will be uprooted when the county uses eminent domain to take the property, building high-rises. (Think of the tax base! And the Metro!).

When I put that azalea over there because it looks good, it has to be without a concern for posterity, how it will fit into the garden plan years after I'm gone. It has to look good *now* and for a decade or so hence.

After that, only some pictures on the net will be left. Please visit (both the garden and the photos).

My azaleas in 2015:

<https://goo.gl/photos/g7XdWc1NXy93wBwJ8>



Carolyn and Paul Beck, who have worked hard to maintain a large collection of plants for the club, are bringing a variety of **McDonald** and **Holly Springs** hybrids to the **Jenkins Arboretum** in Devon, PA to increase their stock and spread the famous hybrids to a greater audience.

Carolyn also notes that the spring lecture by **Barbara Bullock** on the **Glenn Dales** at the **National Arboretum** increased interest in those, and there were many Glenn Dales available at the **Cutting Exchange** in July. Also, cuttings provided by Dan Krabill are being grown by Mike White and will be sent to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens in fall of 2020.

Directions to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, VA 22152, 703-451-5320 Kirkwood.office@verizon.net

From the East: Rte 95 exit 169B, Franconia Rd West, which becomes Old Keene Mill Rd (Rte 644) about 3 miles, passing **Irving Middle School**, to a **Right** at a light on **Carrleigh Parkway**
Make a U-turn at **Dabney Avenue**

From the West: Fairfax County Parkway (Rte 286)

East on **Old Keene Mill Rd** (Rte 644) about **3.5 miles**, passing **Rolling Road**
to **Left** at a light on **Carrleigh Parkway** ; Make a U-turn at **Dabney Avenue**



Find your editor's Essay Blog at

<https://thegardenedge.blogspot.com>

A new one posted about the 20th of each month.

*Contributors Retain Copyright To Their Works Appearing In
The Clipper*

Schedule

- 9/28 Setup for Auction/Sale; please help!
- 9/29 Auction/Sale Kirkwood Pres. Church
- 10/28 Fall Meeting Kirkwood Pres. Church
Rick Bauer and Don Hyatt talk about their European botanical adventures
- 10/28 Executive Committee Meeting
- 12/9 Holiday Social at the Beck's

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